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asking the full court to reconsider a three-judge decision from Jan. 29 that upheld the ban. Three of the judges agreed that the ban is unconstitutional, while three additional judges agreed that the court should reconsider the decision.

"The state has attempted to justify the law by saying that it serves the purpose of getting children placed in families with married couples," said Howard Simon, ACLU of Florida executive director. "But as Judge [Rosemary] Barkett stated in her dissenting opinion, the law has nothing to do with that."

Barkett noted that Florida regularly allows single people to adopt and pointed out that 30 percent of the adoptions in the state are by single parents. She further noted that given the backlog of 3,400 children in the system waiting to be adopted, "the state's ban on gay adoption does nothing to increase the number of children being adopted, whether by married couples or anyone else."

Simon continued, "The law was enacted merely out of impermissible hostility to gays and lesbians, and that kind of law violates the Constitution."

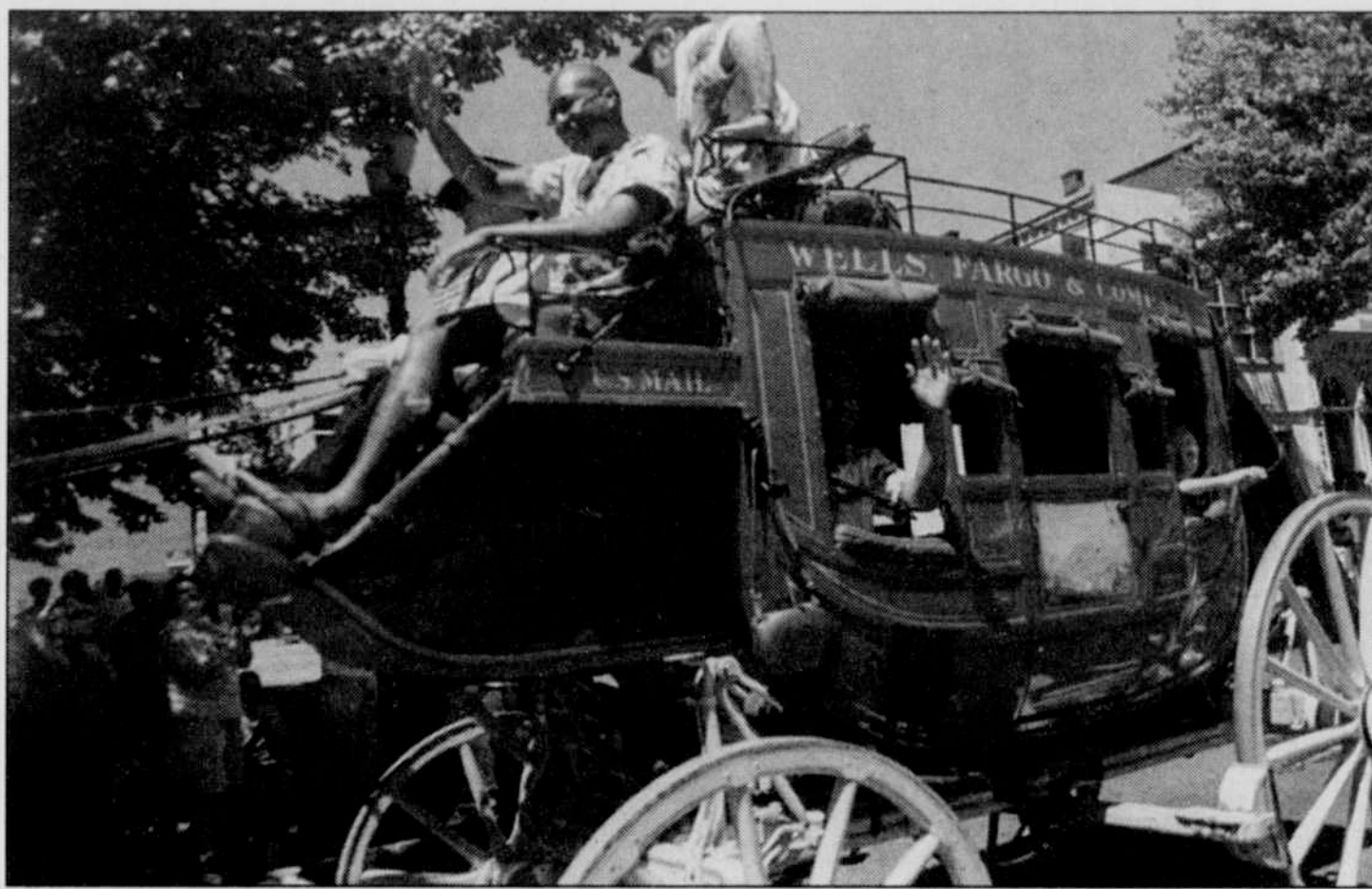
Even Judge Stanley Birch, who wrote the original decision upholding the ban, said that excluding gay people from the pool of potential adoptive parents is misguided and bad policy, recognizing the fact that they can be devoted parents. He even stated that if he were a member of the Legislature he would be opposed to the law.

The suit was brought on behalf of four men—including Portlanders Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau—who would like to adopt in Florida but are prevented from doing so by a 1977 state law that was passed in response to Anita Bryant's infamous anti-gay campaign. The ACLU is reviewing the opinions and exploring the legal options.

HRC SHOWS VOLUNTEERS HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Human Rights Campaign will launch its Campaign Academy—a weekend of comprehensive field training designed to teach queer and allied volunteers how to have the greatest impact on campaigns in their area—from Aug. 13 to 15 in Seattle. Volunteer trainings also will take place this month in Phoenix and Atlanta.

Volunteers will gain firsthand experience and



The Lofton-Croteau family, who served as grand marshals of this year's Portland Pride Parade, are stuck in legal limbo now that a court has upheld Florida's gay adoption ban

practice with the most crucial elements of a campaign, including volunteer recruitment and management; precinct targeting; voter contact, identification and persuasion; and efforts to get out the vote. The residential-style training will allow for both an intense weekend of learning and a chance to bond with the other participants.

HRC will help volunteers take activism to the next level by becoming a dependable resource for candidates in need. The best and the brightest volunteers will play a vital role in electing fair-minded leaders and put a face on queer issues in the heart of a campaign.

The academy will begin mid-afternoon Friday and continue through Sunday afternoon. HRC will cover the costs of hotel rooms, breakfast and lunch Saturday and Sunday, as well as the curriculum and trainers.

Participants need only cover the costs of their own transportation as well as dinner on their own for each evening. They must commit to the entire weekend of training and to volunteering for an HRC-related campaign in the coming season.

To apply send a résumé to senior field organizer Bo Shuff at bo.shuff@hrc.org.

CRUISE WITH CANDIDATES

The Rose City's queer chamber of commerce, the Portland Area Business Association, will give voters an opportunity to meet

and greet political candidates during its Annual All-City Cruise.

The event will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Aug. 15 aboard the Portland Spirit. Boarding starts 2:30 p.m. on the east side of the Willamette River at 110 S.E. Caruthers St. near the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Everyone is invited to relax, hang out with friends and network along the Willamette River with a lunch buffet and a no-host bar. Roey Thorpe, Basic Rights Oregon executive director, will provide an update about the status of the No on Constitutional Amendment 36 campaign.

Portland mayoral candidates Tom Potter and Jim Francesconi and City Council candidates Sam Adams and Nick Fish will be on board. PABA promises no podiums and no stump speeches, just great fun on the water.

The cost is \$55 for PABA members and \$65 for nonmembers in advance and \$75 on the day of sailing. Couples can attend for \$100.

Thorpe also will speak at PABA's next monthly meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 8 at Embassy Suites, 319 S.W. Pine St. The luncheon also will feature Sensory Perceptions development director Debbie Caselton, who will preview the eighth annual

Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, which will be held from Oct. 22 to 31 at Cinema 21.

The cost for the meal is \$23 for PABA members and \$27 for nonmembers in advance and \$32 at the door. Guests who do not wish to eat can purchase coffee tickets for \$7.

To reserve tickets contact PABA president Aaron Hall at 503-810-9121 or aaronaid@msn.com, visit www.paba.com or go to Balloons on Broadway or Gai-Pied.

PRIDE NORTHWEST SEEKS FEEDBACK, BOARD MEMBERS

Pride Northwest, the nonprofit that puts on the Portland Pride celebration every year, already is looking ahead to next summer.

A community forum will gather feedback about Pride 2004 and start planning for Pride 2005 from 7 to 8:45 p.m. Aug. 19 at Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave. Those who are unable to attend can fill out an online survey at Pride Northwest's Web site.

The annual event is organized by eight to 10 board members and one part-time paid staff person. Board and committee members are needed now to help plan Pride 2005.

To obtain an application call 503-295-9788 or visit www.pridenw.org.

OWN A PIECE OF OREGON HISTORY

An upcoming "GAYrage Sale" will give Portlanders a chance to buy items from the late Bill and Ann Shepherd, founders of the Portland chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 20 to 22 at the home of Susie Shepherd and Kaitie Chase, 6615 N.E. 22nd Ave. between Dekum and Killingsworth streets. "We just couldn't get everything from Mom and Dad's house into ours!" Susie explained.

All sale proceeds will go to charities closest to the hearts of the Shepherds: Portland PFLAG; the Ann & Bill Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation; the Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund, also managed by Equity Foundation; and the Audria M. Edwards Memorial Scholar-



Items owned by PFLAG pioneers Bill and Ann Shepherd will be sold Aug. 20 to 22

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